



Happy Holidays!



Chief Justice Gilbertson and Justice Zinter.

The decorations on this year's UJS Tree reflect the 2011 Capitol Christmas Tree Display theme of "Starlit Wonderland." The UJS Tree is located across from the entrance to the Supreme Court Clerk's office in the east wing on the second floor of the Capitol.

The Capitol Christmas Tree Display is open from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily, with Monday, December 26, being the final day to view the trees. The trees can also be viewed at the Capitol Christmas website: <http://sd.gov/christmas2011/>.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy holiday season!

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Welcome to the thirteenth issue of the UJS Newsletter!

Articles, information and feedback are welcome. Articles and information will be printed as space allows. Please email your information to Gloria Guericke.

Chief Justice's Memo

As I close out the year 2011, I would like to pay tribute to those members of the UJS family who were personally affected by the floods along the Missouri River. I do not have a specific count of the number of persons forced from their homes, but I do know there were more than a few.

With a week's notice, they were forced to remove all their

To borrow a phrase from Winston Churchill, this was their finest hour.

worldly possessions from their homes and find a substitute place to live. No one had planned for such an event. Our folks were living in locations such as basements, motels and campers. They had their daily family obligations to meet under the most trying of circumstances.

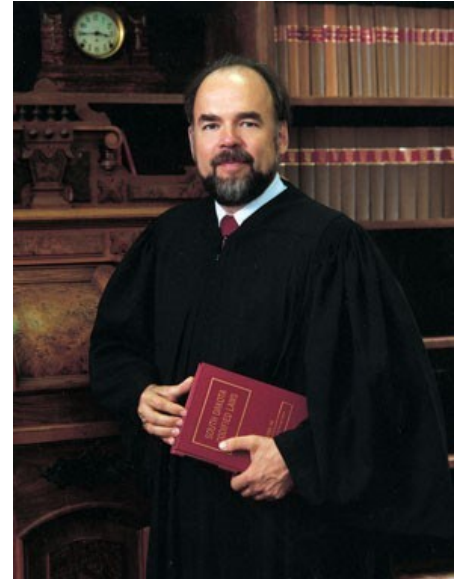
What astonished me the most was that in my daily

contact with these persons, they went about their jobs with a professionalism which would have led an outside observer to conclude nothing was amiss. People showed up for work on time and did their job as well as before the flood. At that point they did not know if they would even have a house

to go back to after the water receded.

Fortunately the water is now in its banks and our friends are either back in their homes or well on their way. To borrow a phrase from Winston Churchill, this was their finest hour.

As a final note, a "thank you" to all the UJS employees who, while not personally affected by the flood, came to the aid of others through sandbagging,



*Chief Justice David
Gilbertson*

hauling possessions and other countless acts of kindness.

I wish you a joyous holiday season.



2012 Trainings

- **Clerks Institute:** Oacoma
- **CSO's:** Oacoma
- **Children's Justice Institute:** Rapid City
- **Children's Justice Institute:** Sioux Falls
- **Deputy Clerk's:** Sioux Falls
- **Deputy Clerk's:** Rapid City
- **Deputy Clerk's:** Pierre
- **Support Staff Training:** Oacoma
- **Court Reporters:** Sioux Falls
- **SCAO All Staff Training:** Pierre

State Court Administrator's Message



Patricia Duggan, State Court Administrator

The holidays are always a magical time for me. They bring back memories of my kids when they were youngsters, and they now provide special times with my

grown family and with my granddaughter.

The attached photo of the young woman wearing a Superwoman costume is my granddaughter, Isla. There are many days in which I wish I could borrow Isla's costume so that I could be "Superwoman" and quickly resolve situations that arise, but Isla won't part with her outfit and I doubt it would fit anyway.

I wish you a very happy holiday season and best wishes for 2012.



Granddaughter Isla as Superwoman.

Children's Justice Conference

The 2011 Children's Justice Conference was put on by the Court Improvement Program and was held September 13 in Rapid City and September 15 in Sioux Falls.

The Conference is open to judges, attorneys, child welfare staff, child welfare advocates, law enforcement, ICWA specialists, tribal court officials,



Attendees at the 2011 Children's Justice Conference.

and education, mental health and health care professionals, and anyone else that is involved in the child welfare arena.

The 2012 Children's Justice Conference will be held in Rapid City and Sioux Falls.

The agenda is still being developed, but the ongoing theme is child welfare focused.

"Save the Date" postcards with website information will be sent out in first few months of 2012.

Interpreter and Translator Report

After two years of study, taking testimony and gathering information related to the provision of interpreter and translator services in South Dakota, the *Supreme Court's Committee to Study the Use of Interpreters and Translators in the South Dakota Court System* has issued its final report and recommendations to the Supreme Court. The Committee's full report, including meeting minutes and funding recommendations, is available on the UJS webpage under the *Councils and Committees* tab. That report includes a number of recommendations that will now go to the Supreme Court for study and possible implementation.

The Committee, chaired by Judge Bradley Zell of the Second Judicial Circuit, consisted of members representing the judiciary, prosecutors, interpreters, court reporters, defense attorneys, court services, counties and court administration.

I think I can speak for the entire committee when I say that having the opportunity to serve on this committee provided a unique learning opportunity. This experience included exploring the legal aspects concerning the provision of interpreter and translator services, the complicated funding questions, learning more about how interpreters do their job and the challenges they face when working in the courts, and the demands associated with finding qualified interpreters.

I would encourage anyone interested in this issue to review the recommendations because this is certainly an issue that will only become more important in the years to come. As Chief Justice Gilbertson stated when appointing the committee, "We



Greg Sattizahn, UJS Legal Counsel

are a State which, since its beginnings, has been settled by immigrants. We have a history of welcoming those who come here and want them to become enthusiastic residents of South Dakota. A similar welcome is due to those who visit our state. Assisting them in contacts with our judicial system through access to a language they understand is crucial to our mission of equal justice for all."

Article submitted by Greg Sattizahn, Committee member

A decorative, stylized flourish or signature line in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke with a small loop at the end.

Recent census statistics available for South Dakota

- 62 languages spoken
- 2 counties with 20 or more languages spoken
- 3 counties with 10 or more languages spoken
- 32 counties with 5 or more languages spoken
- 5 languages with 1,000 or more speakers

SPECIAL INSERT

This Special Insert is to introduce you to our newest Supreme Court Justice, Lori Wilbur, and Magistrate Judges Heidi Linngren, who recently joined the Seventh Judicial Circuit, and Leo Disburg, who is working in the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

South Dakota Supreme Court Justice Lori S. Wilbur

Supreme Court Justice Lori S. Wilbur represents the Fourth Supreme Court District, which includes the counties of Aurora, Bon Homme, Brule, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Douglas, Gregory, Hanson, Hutchinson, Lyman, McCook, Tripp, Turner, Union, Yankton and all but the Northwest portion of Lincoln County.

Justice Wilbur attended the University of South Dakota, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1974, and the University of South Dakota, School of Law, receiving a Juris Doctor degree in 1977. She served as a law clerk for the South Dakota Supreme Court for Honorable Laurence J. Zastrow; was an assistant Attorney General; General Counsel, South Dakota Board of Regents; Staff Attorney, South Dakota Legislative Research Council; and Legal Counsel, South Dakota Bureau of Personnel.

Justice Wilbur is a member and past President of the South Dakota Judges Association, past member and Secretary of the Judicial



Supreme Court Justice Lori Wilbur

Qualifications Commission and a member of the Rosebud Bar Association. She served as a Law-Trained Magistrate Judge, Sixth Circuit 1992-1999; Circuit Court Judge, Sixth Circuit, 1999-2011; and Presiding Judge, Sixth Circuit, 2007-2011. Justice Wilbur, and her late husband Brent, have two adult daughters.

Justice Wilbur provided responses to the following questions so that you could get to know her better.

Q & A Section

Biggest difference/ miss the most:

Four months is not really long enough to fully understand this job of being a Justice. I hope to know more in four years, frankly. I spent the first couple months figuring out how to get into and out of the Minnehaha Courthouse, seriously.

At first blush, I would say there is a different pace to the work. Having time to read and think about a bigger picture is something that a trial judge certainly has less opportunity to do.

Another big difference also ties in with what I miss the most, so far. The fifty-some people in the 6th Circuit who are in the trenches providing excellent "customer service" were a really important part of my everyday work life for almost 20 years. Clerks who answered calls at all times of the day, probation officers who cared deeply for their work and, really, everyone from part-time bailiffs to the judges there are what makes UJS a great place to work. I miss the contact with those folks (*cont'd. on page 6*)

SPECIAL INSERT

Magistrate Judge Heidi Linngren, 7th Judicial Circuit



Question & Answer Interview

In what field is your undergraduate degree?

My undergraduate degrees were B.S. in Elementary Education and a B.A. in English.

What motivated you to study law?

My love of reading and problem-solving - I have been particularly interested in criminal law most of my life.

If you weren't a lawyer or a judge, what would you like to do?

College professor or professional golfer!

What do you enjoy most about being a judge or the greatest reward of your job?

So far, and I am quite new at this, it is the ability to see and appreciate things from a new vantage point. I have been a criminal defense attorney and a prosecutor. So far, the most rewarding part of the job is being thanked by people for taking time out to listen. Thank-you goes a long way in society, today.

What are your outside interests?

Golf, playing the piano, and spending time with my family and friends.

Who are your role models?

My family and friends.

What is the best advice you have ever received and from whom?

The way you treat people is a much greater reflection on the person that you are than any other accomplishment that you may have in your lifetime.

Irma Welch, my grandmother

What is one thing most people don't know about you?

That I played piano in a supper club.

Words to live by or favorite quote?

"I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble." --- Helen Keller

What is your favorite food?

Hot wings—as hot as they make them!

SD Supreme Court Justice Lori S. Wilbur, cont'd. from pg. 5

who became more like family to me than fellow employees.

The thing is though, that I have been able to see how dedicated employees are the norm for the UJS, whether they work at the "Big House" in Pierre or in county courthouse. That confirms a long-held suspicion of mine.

What are my outside

interests:

I have lots of hobbies, none of which would support me if I weren't a Justice. I love racket sports, music, trapshooting, cooking, hiking, biking and reading (luckily!).

If I weren't a Justice (or a lawyer):

Assuming skill and talent

weren't an issue, I'd like to farm, build houses, sell real estate, be a professional musician, and finally, play in the finals of a grand slam tennis event!

Favorite quote:

You never know how strong you can be until being strong is your only option. *Anonymous*



SPECIAL INSERT

Magistrate Judge Leo Disburg, 6th Judicial Circuit

Question & Answer Interview

In what field is your undergraduate degree?

Political Science

What motivated you to study law?

I grew up at a time when watching the evening news was almost a civic duty. That was also the tail end of the civil rights movement, which was the subject of many of the stories. Lawyers and judges were playing key roles in the process and they and their work fascinated me.

If you weren't a lawyer or a judge, what would you like to do?

I envy writers, but lacking their creative talents, I have had to be satisfied with decisions and grocery lists.

What do you enjoy most about being a judge or the greatest reward of your job?

There is satisfaction in doing any job well. At this point in this new position, satisfaction is more goal than achievement.

What are your outside interests?



I read—mostly history; ride my motorcycle when time and the weather allow; and out of necessity am trying to teach myself a bit more about cooking, but so far I have shown a much better appetite than aptitude.

Who are your role models?

Three historical figures I have admired since childhood are Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, and Samuel Clemens. They were each extraordinarily intelligent and courageous in their own way. They were also deeply flawed and failed to entirely rise above the prejudices of their times and circumstances. I find that more hopeful than discouraging.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

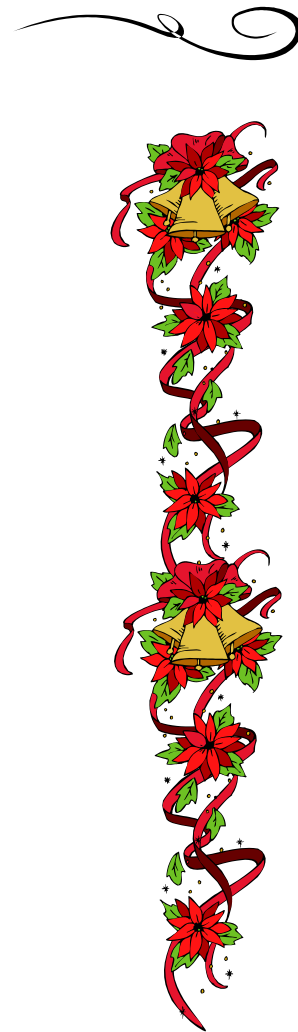
Focus on the solution, not the problem.

What is one thing most people don't know about you?

I am not really difficult, just really sleep deprived.

Words to live by or favorite quote?

Better to remain silent and thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt.



Darrell Pepper, JIPP Officer in Lake Andes, Recognized for his Dedication

Darrell Pepper has been a CSO for many years and has dedicated his career to helping troubled youth in Charles Mix County. Darrell has been and continues to be instrumental in the ongoing success of the Lake Andes Connecting Point Program. This program was developed initially with funding through the SD Department of Corrections to address the need for additional services for adjudicated youth in Charles Mix County.

Since the beginning of the Connecting Point program in June 2005, Darrell has gone above and beyond to provide ongoing support. I am convinced that Connecting Point would not continue today without the commitment shown by Darrell, his supervisors and my staff.

It is obvious that Darrell has



Darrell Pepper with his recognition plaque.

a personal investment in Connecting Point. He participates in the programming several times a week (if not on a daily basis). Darrell has dedicated many evenings to these youth and has even helped chaperone out of

...he continues to make a difference in the lives of youth in Charles Mix County.

town field trips.

Darrell is not only supportive to the youth, but also to the program coordinator, therapists and staff from Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services, Inc.

During this past year, with all the funding concerns, he advocated to keep this program operating. I believe that Darrell deserves to be recognized for his outstanding contributions to the field of Corrections because he continues to make a difference in the lives of youth in Charles Mix County.

On behalf of the entire Children's staff at Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services, Inc., I wish to express my sincere thanks to Darrell Pepper for his investment in the youth served through the Connecting Point Program.

Recognition from Patricia Riibe, CSW, PIP, QMHP, Director of Children's Services L&CBHS, 1028 Walnut, St., Yankton, SD

Congratulations, Lisa!

Congratulations, Lisa! Lisa Mammenga started imaging the personnel files in May 2009 and completed the project November 4, 2011. This project included imaging 644 files and Lisa estimates 33,000 pieces of paper were imaged, indexed, and quality checked by Lisa.

This is quite the accomplishment and we celebrated Lisa's success on Monday, November 7, with a small get together to share some coffee cake. Lisa's devotion to this project ensured its success and the electronic storage and retrieval of personnel files advances the Human Resource's office and assists UJS employees.

Thank you, Lisa!



Drug Court Team with Guest Judge Shawn Pahlke



Guest Judge Shawn Pahlke and the Northern Hills Drug Court Team.

The Northern Hills Drug Court team took a break to pose with guest Judge Shawn Pahlke on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at the Meade County Courthouse.

Left to Right: Nicci Havemeier, court reporter; Ron Merwin, Meade County Sheriff; Mary Wood-Fossen, Northern

Hills Alcohol & Drug; Judge Shawn Pahlke, Seventh Circuit Magistrate; Bruce Hubbard, Drug Court Defense Attorney; Nicole Drew, Seventh Circuit Court Services; Kevin Krull, Meade County State's Attorney; Kasey Sorenson, Meade County Deputy State's Attorney;

Mark Nelson, Northern Hills Alcohol & Drug; Carrie Greenaway, Drug Court Assistant; Chris Pankratz, Fourth Circuit Court Services; and Jeanne Mann, Seventh Circuit Court Services.



A Perk of the New Odyssey System

Brian DeJong, Court Services Officer in Watertown, shared that one of his favorite features of the Odyssey system is the Workspace option, which gets you started quickly.

Brian noted that things may slow down after you click on a

name/case, but this should improve as you become familiar with the tabs.

Brian felt that having the entire case load on the monitor for viewing is a plus versus having to look at or for a file.

Correction: In the Fall 2011 UJS Newsletter an incorrect phone number was listed for Kim Allison in regard to the *Legal Form Help Line* article on page 15. The correct number is (605) 668-5685.

Justice says Drug Court Benefits Addicts, Taxpayers

Tuesday, 25 October 2011

She says it takes \$60 to \$75 a day to house an inmate in the state penitentiary, and that Drug Court is often a better alternative for both individuals and taxpayers. South Dakota Supreme Court Justice Lori Wilbur was the keynote speaker at Tuesday's Drug Court Graduation.

Five individuals graduated from the program on Tuesday.

Drug Court offers services that better cater to addiction than traditional court, and Justice Wilbur says the program teaches those with addiction essential life skills they wouldn't get if they were incarcerated.

Justice Wilbur says, "We haven't spent hundreds of thousands of dollars just locking them up for them to

come out. Putting an addict in prison and expecting a difference is about as effective as taking someone with cancer and putting them in the penitentiary and saying, 'We hope you're better when you get out.'"

An addict can enter the Drug Court system if they have no history of violent crime, and if addiction is found to be the basis of their actions.

-Brendyn Medina
From website: <http://www.blackhillsfox.com/2011/10/25/>



Keynote Speaker Justice Lori Wilbur at the October 25 Drug Court Graduation

Justice-says-Drug-Court-benefits-both-offenders-and-taxpayers



South Dakota Attendees at the Upper Midwest Drug Court



South Dakota made a strong showing at the Upper Midwest Drug Court Professionals Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota.

The Conference occurred October 12-14, 2011, and was sponsored by the North Dakota Supreme Court and the National Drug Court Institute.



Team UJS—2011 Mickelson Trail 5-Person Relay

Five UJS employees dared to dream the impossible dream. They pushed themselves to their limit and succeeded. Never mind what place they took, they did it! They trained every day, they broke records, they pushed the limits...it was very hard to limit themselves to only two chocolates per day.



Left to Right, Back Row: Carol Wells, Georgine Wolf, Danette Forbes, Lori Antonsen

Front Row: Judge John "Jack" Delaney

question was Sunday, October 2, 2011, the hottest day of any October in recorded history, a blistering 96 degrees.

These brave athletes weathered the heat, exhaustion, and body cramps all with a smile on their face. As the finish line came into sight their smiles grew bigger.

Who are these great athletes you ask? Team UJS consisted of Seventh Circuit Judge, John J. Delaney, who ran 7.4 miles; Seventh Circuit Court Recorder, Georgine Wolf, who ran 5.6 miles; Seventh Circuit Court Clerk of Courts, Danette Forbes, who ran 4.8 miles; Seventh Circuit Scheduling Clerk, Carol Wells, who ran 4.2 miles; and Seventh Circuit

Court Clerk of Courts, Lori Antonsen, who ran 3.8 miles.

Team UJS "passed the gavel" when each person ran. Judge Delaney graciously let the Team use his gavel to pass as each person ran their part. Although every person was honored to carry the gavel, they would have preferred to pass a fan or a block of ice. The day in

Finally at the finish line, looking fabulous, some vowed to brave it all again next year. So send congratulations to these brave, and a bit crazy, athletes and give them a cookie, they've earned it.

Article submitted by Lori Antonsen, Deputy Clerk of Courts



Letters to Santa

Is rudolfs nose that way cuz he always has a cold?

- Lucy, 27, Southampton, United Kingdom

Does your Mommy make you stop and brush your toothes after you have milk and cookies at each house?

- Celine, 4, Wilmington, Delaware

From website: <http://www.greatdad.com/tertiary/412/3402/kids-letters-to-santa-claus.html>

Meet Alicia Diaz, New Employee in IT Office

Alicia Diaz is the new Administrative Assistant for the Information and Technology office of the Unified Judicial System. Alicia primarily manages IT purchases, expenses, hotel reservations and month end expenditures.

Welcome, Alicia!

Alicia grew up mainly in Winfred, South Dakota, a very small community between Madison and Howard, but has lived in North Dakota, Texas and Louisiana. Her father was a beekeeper and, as a result, had to travel as much as six months out of the year. This extensive amount of travel



Alicia Diaz,
IT Administrative Assistant

allowed her meet new people and learn more about the country than she would have otherwise.

Alicia graduated from Dakota State University in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in Computer Graphic Design and Multimedia Web Development. In her free time, she likes to read, crochet, and practice the piano.

Alicia's philosophy is "Life is too short to be negative," so she strives to make every day count. Her two favorite quotes are from Carl Sagan, Astrophysicist; *"..it is far better to grasp the Universe as it really is than to persist in delusion, however satisfying and reassuring."* and *"The sky calls to us. If we do not destroy ourselves, we will one day venture to the stars."*



Margie Huss Retires Pennington County Clerk's Office

Margie Huss retired as a Deputy Court Clerk on September 8, 2011. Margie was hired on August 23, 1998, in the Pennington County Clerk's office, where she was a deputy clerk in the Civil division.

A reception was held on September 8, 2011, at the Pennington County Courthouse in honor of her dedication and years of service to the Unified Judicial System.

*Thanks, Margie,
and best wishes
on your
retirement!*



Margie Huss with Pennington County Clerk of Courts Ranae Truman.

Karn's Column

SCAO Book Chats

The SCAO just completed their third “book chat.” Participation in book chats is voluntary. Chapters are assigned to read and participants meet 3-4 times over the course of a month to discuss what they have read.” Kent Grode recommended the most recent book for discussion, *Monday Morning Mentoring*.

Here is a synopsis of the book:

In *Monday Morning Mentoring*, author David Cottrell introduces Jeff, a successful corporate manager who is in a rut. Jeff was a capable and popular member of a corporate team, but now he is managing his own team at a time when business is low. He is working harder than ever—so hard, in fact, that he is ignoring his marriage and family. Doubts about his leadership abilities



Karn Barth,
Judicial Branch Educator

creep into his thinking, undermining his confidence. Clearly Jeff is at a crossroads. Then one day he runs into Tony, an old friend of his father. Now retired, Tony was a hugely successful business executive whom Jeff had long admired. He decides to call him to seek his counsel.

Tony is delighted to see Jeff, and after hearing his story, Tony agrees to help him, on two conditions: Jeff has to commit to a session each Monday morning for ten weeks; and he has to promise to pass along the lessons and experiences he learns along the way.

Monday Morning Mentoring chronicles Jeff's ten-week period of management readjustment with Tony. The lessons learned not only turn around Jeff's whole approach to leading his team, but also have a salutary effect on his family life. Each week, Tony shares with Jeff the kind of common-sense wisdom everyone needs to succeed in business.

There are a couple of extra copies of this book in the UJS Resource Library. If you would like to check a copy out to read, please email me at Karn.Barth@uj.s.state.sd.us



“Welcome Aboard” to the Following New UJS Employees

4th CIRCUIT:

- Danielle Glenn, Scheduling Clerk, Lawrence/Deadwood

6th CIRCUIT:

- Leo Disburg, Magistrate Judge, Stanley/Ft. Pierre

7th CIRCUIT:

- Karisa Buckwheat, Deputy Court Clerk Magistrate 1, Fall River/Hot Springs
- Erin Jerke, Deputy Court Clerk II, Pennington/Rapid City
- Heidi Linngren, Magistrate Judge, Pennington/Rapid City

SCAO/SUPREME COURT:

- Austin Taylor, Help Desk Support Specialist

Odyssey Update

Odyssey Update – Current, Who Should You Appreciate and What’s Next.

Although the number of significant dates we experience professionally doesn’t compare to those on a personal level in between the day you were hired and the day you retire, there are ones that stand out. Added somewhere on the list for UJS staff is November 7th, 2011, when Odyssey entered the Pilot stage in six Third Circuit counties.

November 7 was a day of achievement for all the people that had participated in the project at some level for several years.

November 7th also represented the day when the emphasis moved from planning, configuring, testing and training to the ‘doing’ phase.

A project in the pilot stage



Kent Grode, Director of the Information & Technology Office

means that someone is the first to use it, the first to discover errors, the first to learn how it works in the ‘real world’, the first to experience frustration as they learn a new way of doing things and, most important to everyone else in UJS, the first do all the things necessary to make the first day of every future user so very much easier.

The people responsible for all these ‘firsts’ are the dedicated staff in Brookings,

Clark, Codington, Deuel, Hamlin and Lake counties.

It’s difficult to weigh the personal reward compared to the effort required for these individuals, but I believe the next time you meet one, a well-deserved ‘Thank you’ and/or refreshment would be appropriate.

So what’s next?

Below is the conversion timeline for the remainder of UJS, and when we get to the end there will be another date to add to that Professional list.

- May 2012: Remaining 3rd Circuit and 5th Circuit
- July 2012: E-Payments
- September 2012: 2nd Circuit
- January 2013: 1st and 6th Circuits
- May 2013: 4th and 7th Circuits
- Unknown: E-Filing

Article submitted by Kent Grode, Director of the Information and Technology Office

Christmas Folklore

Superstition and folklore about the Christmas season seems endless. Here's a sampling:

~a windy Christmas will bring good luck,
~a person born on Christmas Day can see the Little People,
~ you will have one lucky month for each Christmas pudding you sample,
~ the tree must be taken down by Twelfth Night or bad luck will follow,
~'if Christmas on a Sunday be, a windy winter we shall see',
~'hours of sun on Christmas Day, so many frosts in the month of May',
~the Twelve Days of Christmas will predict each month's weather for the coming year,

From website: <http://www.angelfire.com/ny5/spiritsong/ChristmasLegends.html>